

# Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



## Air Power

Quote of the Week

“Air power is a deterrent to war and a devastating force to destroy an enemy’s potential.”

– Gen. Omar Bradley

Vol. 50, No. 38

[www.laughlin.af.mil](http://www.laughlin.af.mil)

Oct. 4, 2002



(Far left) Capt. Richard “Cheese” McCurdy and Capt. Andrea Jones, members of the mock terrorist team, assess whether or not a T-38 is over its assigned target at the designated time.

(Left) A member of the mock terrorist team “pops” smoke to highlight one of the ground terrorist targets. A Laughlin T-38 banks toward a Blackhawk helicopter, which serves as another mock terrorist site, after “delivering a bomb” to the first terrorist target. The Blackhawk came from the Army National Guard in Austin.

## Target terrorists: *Base pilots hone bomb delivery skills*

**By Senior Airman Brad Pettit**  
*Public Affairs*

Imagine the following scene: A terrorist group glides over south Texas in the belly of a Blackhawk helicopter. As the aircraft touches the desert floor, a small contingent spills out. The machine blades whirr noisily overhead, forcing the terrorists to move quickly.

With the first team out of the chopper, the Blackhawk is in the air again, riding low and landing a few miles from the first terrorist group. This team exits the chopper with tote bags containing tools critical to ac-

complishing the mission: take over Laughlin Air Force Base, which is approximately 100 miles away.

Minutes later, Laughlin jets are launched. They have received the terrorists’ coordinates and speed toward them. Two Laughlin pilots spot their targets and bank their jets toward them. The flight lead takes note of his wingman passing directly over the first target; he then turns his full attention toward the second target— the Blackhawk.

This was the scenario Sept. 27 when the 87th Flying Training Squadron Red Bulls celebrated the

end of the fiscal year with a flying competition among its instructor pilots. The pilots were rated on how well they met given objectives, which were to pilot their jets at wings level over the “terrorist targets” at precisely specified times.

Lt. Col. Mark Mattison, 87th FTS operations officer, said the exercise was designed to be as real as possible and required a great deal of skill from the competing pilots.

“The really stressful part for [the instructor pilots] was they had no opportunity to mission plan prior to their flight briefing time,” he said.

“At the mission brief, an intelligence officer gave them their route, targets and exact time they should be over each target.”

Though the exercise was designed to be difficult for the pilots, Colonel Mattison said he was impressed by the skill and professionalism they exhibited. “I am amazed at the way Red Bulls fly these jets,” he said. “The winners from Mothers Flight hit both targets exactly to the second using only the watches on their wrists and their maps. They

**See ‘Target,’ page 6**

## The inside Scoop

### Viewpoints:

The 47th Operations Support Squadron commander explains how timing is everything.

**Page 2**

### News:

Major air expeditionary force changes are coming to enhance AEF construct abilities.

**Page 4**

### Lifestyles:

Laughlin’s second annual Enlisted Appreciation Day brings out base enlisted members and officers.

**Page 8**

## Countdown to ORI:

**9 weeks**



## Commanders' Corner

By Lt. Col. Robert Craven

47th Operations Support Squadron commander

### Great preparation leads to great timing

Timing is everything. I can't recall the number of times I've heard that or the number of unhappy people who've insisted timing was solely responsible for their failures or their peer's successes.

We've all listened to the sordid stories of apparently talented people whose lives and careers were thrown off track by bad timing. Granted, there are indisputable cases where timing has, in fact, significantly influenced an outcome, and I'll be the first to admit timing can be extremely critical.

I've noticed that folks who place great credence in timing also tend to believe their lives, and the lives of others, are driven very much by simple luck. You know the saying, "better lucky than good." It's joined at the hip with "timing is everything." I use them both frequently, but have observed and experienced that luck, fate and the resulting good or poor timing, make for poor career or life planning tools. Belief that success or failure depends on luck or timing is a weak substitute for deliberate planning and preparation.

Bottom line is timing means nothing if you're not prepared when the time comes. A fleeting golden career opportunity will appear like great timing to those prepared to take advantage of it and for those who do prepare, timing always seems to be good and good luck always seems to come their way. For those not prepared, well, timing is always as bad as their luck.

I, like most of you, have many stories that may appear to center around timing and luck. Here's one that changed my life. I was in the Army and wanted desperately to be

an officer in the Air Force. Almost the day I set foot on Fort Bragg, N.C., my first duty assignment, I began work on a bachelor's degree, taking three to five classes every term.

As I was nearing degree completion a year and a half later, my platoon leader, who had always supported my plans, urged me to discuss them with my career field adviser at the Department of the Army. My wife and I drove to D.C. and I explained my desire to go to Air Force Officer Training School. His response cut like a knife. Although supportive of my efforts, he made it clear he would not approve the waivers required for me to leave the Army in time to make the Air Force pilot training age limit.

The drive back to Fort Bragg was a turning point in everything I had previously believed about timing and luck. I wanted to give up, but deciding to do so guaranteed failure. The decision was made to press full speed ahead, to make my own luck by being ready when or if the time came. Six months later, I was ready and that same career adviser approved the waivers.

To many of my peers, friends and even some family members, I appeared to be "lucky" and "in the right place at the right time." True, my timing was impeccable, but it wouldn't have meant a thing if I hadn't been ready. I learned timing wasn't everything and you will miss 100 percent of the shots you never take.

I firmly believe winners make

their own luck and good timing by following one simple rule: there's no job more important than the one you're doing right now. It's imperative to always keep your eye on the prize, but never forget it's the performance in the job you're doing right now that will move you toward that prize. You must believe truly excellent work, regardless of how minor the task, is recognized and ultimately rewarded.

Many times, hard work appears to go unnoticed and it may take much longer than you think for your efforts to pay off. Granted, it's sometimes difficult to be enthusiastic

***"You must believe truly excellent work, regardless of how minor the task, is recognized and ultimately rewarded."***

about a job that seems menial or is just a stepping stone to what you really want to do, but remember, great achievement happens one small step at a time and

the quality of those steps will determine the ultimate outcome.

If you take a mediocre approach to your "steps" you'll likely end up with mediocre results. It's in most people's nature to want to excel, especially those who have chosen our profession of arms. Few wake in the morning and greet the day with an enthusiastic "Today I'm going to be mediocre!"

Opportunities to achieve are everywhere. All you have to do to take advantage of them is be ready when the time comes. The year I was accepted to Air Force OTS, my sister sent me a humorous birthday card that said "With your luck, you'll probably be at the airport when your ship comes in." Where will you be when your ship comes in?



### Editorial Staff

Col. Dan Woodward  
*Commander*

1st Lt. Paula Kurtz  
*Public affairs chief*

Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein  
*Editor*

Airman Yvonne Conde  
*Staff writer*

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Submissions can be e-mailed to: [timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil) or [yvonne.conde@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:yvonne.conde@laughlin.af.mil).

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***"Excellence  
— not our  
goal, but our  
standard."***

**— 47th FFW motto**



Unsung heroes in our midst expect us to carry on

By Col. Cynthia G. Snyder  
11th Civil Engineer Squadron commander

BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, D.C. – Oftentimes we find ourselves going at such a fast pace that we skip lunch, miss medical appointments, rise before 5 a.m. to work out because we cannot afford to lose the time during the day – and the list goes on and on. Unfortunately, we do not always take time to share a meaningful exchange with our co-workers or subordinates, or even with a friendly face on the bus or subway.

It was a hot Saturday afternoon in August 2001, shortly after assuming squadron command, that I stopped by the heat plant on base to say hello to some of my folks. That conversation reconfirmed the importance of taking the time to get to know your people.

Many of us have read about Gen. Douglas MacArthur’s bold landing at Inchon, Korea, which averted a potential disaster and set the stage for our forces to go on the offensive and push northward during the early stages of the Korean War. Merely viewing photographs of our troops at war

in Korea causes one to marvel at the enormous hardships they faced and overcame. But to actually talk to one “who was there,” and hear him recount some of the critical days during the war left me awestruck.

Lawrence (Larry) Gray was a corporal in the 3rd Infantry Division in 1950. He served and fought in some of the most brutal conditions ever faced by American troops – the operation to relieve the Marines trapped by Chinese Communist troops at the Chosin Reservoir. Mr. Gray recounted the brutal cold (sometimes as low as 30 degrees below zero) and how there was little food during the 18 to 20 days of desperate combat, and how his division survived on grapefruit juice during this period. A few months later, I was reminded that Mr. Gray, while unique, is not rare.

Just last week, I was returning from a meeting when a tall elderly gentleman, who walked with a cane to ease his bad limp, boarded the subway car I was on. I offered him my seat.

Observing my uniform, he proudly began sharing his military experience with me and even proudly showed me his retired identification card.

He had entered the military in 1945 and had served in every war and conflict through Vietnam, primarily in the infantry. He was especially proud of being part of the Berlin Airlift. While serving in Vietnam he was seriously wounded and lost his leg as a result.

How many Mr. Grays and individuals like the gentleman on the subway are in your midst right now and perhaps waiting to share a special bond with you? The patriotism and professionalism of both gentlemen is a reminder of the heritage of which we, who currently wear the uniform of the greatest armed forces in the world, are a part.

These gentlemen did not complain because their names were not included in the numerous writings about these events – that is not why they served. They served in answer to the call of this nation and they rightly assume we will do our part, when called upon, to continue the tradition of selfless service and if necessary, go beyond the call of duty to get the job done.

Then, perhaps, we will follow them by taking our own place among the ranks of the proud but unsung.



Col. Dan Woodward  
47th Flying Training  
Wing commander

Actionline  
Call 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every at-

tempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of

Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Equal Employment Opportunity	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
Military Equal Opportunity	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

Dining Hall

**Question:** I have two questions regarding the dining facility. I work nights along with many other enlisted personnel. We were wondering if the dining facility could stay open a half hour later so once we get off work we could have a good breakfast. We receive Basic Allowance for Subsistence, but we cannot cook in the dormitories, which does not give us the option for a hot breakfast. My second question concerns the 33 percent

surcharge on everything purchased [in the dining facility]. I came from another base and talked to other people, and they have never heard of this surcharge.

**Answer:** Thanks for giving me the opportunity to explain our dining facility program. Breakfast is served at the Chaparral Dining Facility from 6:15 to 8 a.m. to accommodate the majority of personnel before and after “normal” duty hours. Personnel such as yourself who do not work within “normal” duty hours have the option of submitting an Air

Force Form 2039 Ground Support Meal Request. Once this is completed, you can call ahead to the dining facility at 298-5295, or send an email to ChaparralDiningFacility@laughlin.af.mil. Your order will be placed and a squadron representative can pick it up.

As for the 33-percent surcharge, the Under Secretary of Defense, Comptroller determines meal rate charges. Enlisted members who are subsisted-in-kind (have a meal card) are the only individuals authorized to use the dining facility at no charge.

Any officer, enlisted member, federal civilian employee receiving basic allowance for subsistence, and all other personnel authorized to eat in the dining facility are charged the standard rate price, which includes the 33-percent surcharge.

At Laughlin, 100 percent of this money is deposited into the base Operation and Maintenance account for the Chaparral Dining Facility, which helps to fund the food service contract. Thank you for your questions, and please continue to take advantage of the services offered by our food service staff.

# Newslines

## ORI preparation

**Computer Security** – Is the most current version of antivirus software installed and used on all personal computers and networks? Are warning banners used on all automated computers and networks? Is only authorized software loaded on government computers? Viruses can be uploaded from infected disks, downloaded from web pages and e-mail that hasn’t been virus scanned.

**Computer Systems Equipment Custodians** – Do custodians sign for and manage all accountable computer resources within their span of control? Do they perform an annual physical inventory of the assigned accountable computer systems following guidance and direction of the equipment custodian officer?

**Computers** – Have all computers connected to the local area network received designated approval authority approval?

## Carwash

The Airman Leadership class will hold a carwash at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m Saturday in front of the base exchange. All proceeds from the event will go to the Combined Federal Campaign.

## Networking class

A class to prepare for informational interviews and establish contacts with people will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday at the Family Support Center conference room. People wanting to attend should RSVP by calling 298-5620 by Tuesday.

For more information, call 298-5620.

## Deer stand assignment

The Val Verde Military Sportsman’s Club will hold the deer stand assignment drawing at 6 p.m. Oct. 11 at the base theater. Hunters must present a valid Texas resident, special resident or nonresident hunting license; or combination hunting/fishing license and a valid military, Department of Defense eligible identification card to hunt on Laughlin.

All personal interested in gun hunting on base must be present to purchase a base hunting permit and a Val Verde Military Sportsman’s Club membership card. The total cost of the card is \$50.

For more information, Call Master Sgt. Jimmie Davis at 298-5456 or Staff Sgt. Frank Munderback at 298-5860.

# Major AEF changes coming in 2003

By Tech. Sgt. Scott Elliott

Air Force Print News

Major air expeditionary force changes are coming beginning with the start of Cycle 4 in June.

People and assets from two on-call wings will be embedded in the 10 AEFs while expeditionary combat support assets from throughout the Air Force will be “leveled.” Also, some Air Reserve Component contributions to the AEF will be realigned.

The changes will enhance the ability of the AEF construct to handle both steady state requirements and surge support for contingency operations, according to Maj. Gen. Timothy A. Peppe, special assistant to the chief of staff for air and space expeditionary forces.

“The thing that everyone needs to understand is (the AEF construct) has worked pretty well,” General Peppe said. “We know there are issues out there, and leadership is committed to fixing those issues.”

The first change involves the 4th Fighter Wing at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., and the 366th Wing at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. These units, which currently operate in a 120-day rotational on-call status, will have their assets and people aligned throughout the 10 AEFs.

Each will be a lead wing, with aircraft and expeditionary combat support generally focused into two different AEF periods to facilitate teaming, General Peppe said. Their change in status will not result in the movement of personnel or equipment to other bases.

Besides placing people from these two wings into the overall expeditionary combat support pool, the Aerospace Expeditionary Force Center at Langley AFB, Va., is working to level ECS manning in all rotations.

“We’re trying to rearrange ECS assets Air Force-wide so there’s a leveling of assets across the 10 AEFs, so the capabilities and numbers are about the same,” General Peppe said. “This more even distribution of personnel will allow us to support a higher level of requirements.”

Leveling the assets will make some airmen vulnerable to deployment sooner than they

expected, while others will have their normal training periods extended.

“It may be that some (unit type codes) move from AEF 5 to AEF 3,” the general said. “So, instead of having 15 months between cycles, they will have 12. Some are going to move backward, having 18 months versus 15 months, because the AEF Center is trying to match ECS assets, where possible, to where the ‘iron’ is moved.”

For example, if F-16 Fighting Falcons from Mountain Home are assigned to AEF 7, the plan is to have Mountain Home expeditionary combat support assets in the same AEF.

“Is that causing some fluctuations? Yes, but the AEF Center is minimizing the shuffling,” General Peppe said. “Our assessment is that the AEF alignment of perhaps 10 to 12 percent of airmen will be affected by this fine-tuning.”

The third change involves distributing Air Reserve Component assets across the AEFs to provide a more consistent level of the workload for the reserve component.

“The Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve contribute significantly (to the AEF construct) with aviation and support as-

sets,” Peppe said. “If you look at how they’re postured right now, you’ll see that they’re heavily weighted in AEFs 7, 8, 9 and 10.”

Better distributing the ANG and Reserve forces is especially important considering that ARC aircraft and people are also heavily involved in Operation Noble Eagle, General Peppe said.

“We have to smooth-flow their availability so it gives us a more ideal mix throughout the AEF cycle,” he said.

General Peppe added that the Air Reserve Component will also realign ANG fighters by block type and geography.

The combination of these changes will help the Air Force better present its forces in the long term, General Peppe said.

“The bottom line is we’re making changes to maximize capability available across the board,” Peppe said. “We want to smooth-flow capabilities across the AEFs and minimize the hills and valleys.”

***“The thing that everyone needs to understand is (the AEF construct) has worked pretty well. We know there are issues out there, and leadership is committed to fixing those issues.”***

**– Maj. Gen. Timothy Peppe**  
*Special assistant to the chief of staff for air and space expeditionary forces*



Photo by Kenn Mann

## I do swear...

Gen. Don Cook, Air Education and Training Command commander, swears in 66 Air Force recruits during the pregame activities at the New York Mets vs. Chicago Cubs baseball game, Sept.

18, at Shea Stadium in New York City. The Mets invited Air Force members to the game to honor the service on its 55th anniversary.

## 100 percent tuition assistance available

Since Tuesday, Air Force people can take advantage of a new Department of Defense tuition assistance policy that pays 100 percent of the cost of tuition for off-duty courses, according to Air Force education officials.

“The policy pays tuition costs and mandatory fees for up to a maximum of \$250 per semester hour, or \$750 per three-hour course,” said Jim Sweizer, chief of the Air Force voluntary education branch at the Pentagon.

The policy also includes a \$4,500-per-year tuition assistance ceiling.

“In the past, we only paid instructional fees, such as a lab fee for science courses,” Sweizer said. “Under the new policy, as long as the total cost falls under the authorized total, the student doesn’t

have to pay any money out of pocket.”

Tuition assistance still cannot be used to pay for textbooks unless they are included in an academic institution’s published tuition rates, he said.

Sweizer is concerned that with 100 percent tuition assistance available to airmen, some people may opt to waive contributing to the Montgomery GI Bill. He encourages airmen to take advantage of the GI Bill’s benefits.

“Not everyone will be able to complete his or her education while on active duty,” he said. “Having the MGIB as an alternative for later use is a wise investment.”

For more information on tuition assistance, call the Laughlin education center at 298-5545.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

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Waste and Abuse, call the FWA  
hotline at 298-4170.**

**Recycle this newspaper.**

## Base to participate in Fire Prevention Week

Compiled from staff reports

The Laughlin and Del Rio fire department will emphasize fire prevention during National Fire Prevention Week, Monday to Oct. 12.

The theme for this year’s campaign is “Team Up for Fire Safety,” and it focuses on three lessons:

- Installing and testing smoke alarms
- Practicing home escape plans
- Hunting for home hazards

The fire department has many activities planned for the week, including fire vehicle displays, extinguisher demonstrations (including how to extinguish grease fires) and home fire evacuation drills using the fire safety house. The fire station will be open for tours throughout the day Wednesday and refreshments will be served.

During the week, fire crews will be at the base exchange, commissary, child development center, library and other locations spreading the fire safety message. Home fire safety kits will be provided so families can inspect their homes to ensure they are fire safe.

After Fire Prevention Week, efforts will continue with the Laughlin AFB and Del Rio fire departments visiting local schools and places of business to provide fire safety information and materials to the families of our community.

For more information, call John Alexander at 298-5037 or 298-5633.

**Interested  
in the Air  
Force?**

*Call Del Rio’s  
Air Force  
recruiter at  
774-0911.*



‘Target,’ from page 1

performed exceptionally well.”

To gauge the pilots’ performance, a small group of 87th FTS instructor pilots was spirited out to a private ranch, which served as the base of operations for the “terrorists.” To access this remote location, an Army National Guard Blackhawk helicopter was flown in from Austin. At the site, the “terrorists” logged the times, flight paths and wing positions of the jets as they passed over them.

Capt. Richard “Cheese” McCurdy, 87th FTS instructor pilot and leader of one of the mock terrorist teams, said the experience from the ground gave him and the other instructor pilots a new point of view. “It was a chance for us to see another aspect of the low-level training phase,” he said. “We’re always in the air looking down. This was a chance for us to see it from the ground up.”

The captain also said he had never been in a helicopter before and the Blackhawk ride was an interesting deviation from the type of flying he is used to. “It was pretty amazing,” he said. “As an Air Force guy, you don’t get that many opportunities to fly in a helicopter, and it was pretty fun to stay low to the ground all the time. We aren’t used to this type of flying.”

The 87th FTS Mothers Flight was judged to have the best fliers of the contest and earned the top gun trophy. The team consisted of Maj. Doug Jenkins, flight commander; Capt. Shane Jensen, assistant flight commander; Capt. Doug Nocera, flight scheduler; and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ryan Freeman, standardization and evaluations monitor.

“It’s kind of nice to have the opportunity to show that, as a flight, we have our act together,” said Captain Jensen, one of the winners of the top gun trophy. “It’s nice to have the bragging rights of beating the other flights.”

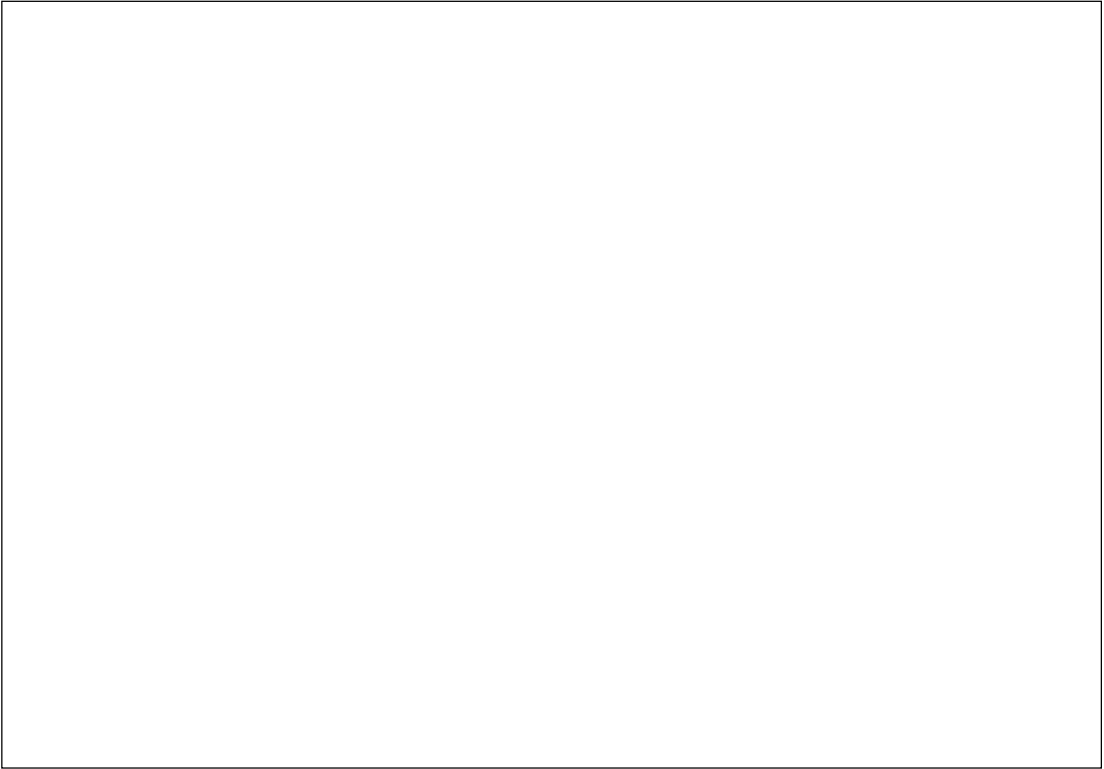
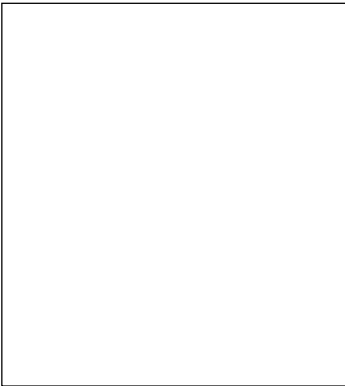
Captain Jensen went on to say that events like these foster esprit de corps among the flights, squadrons and entire Laughlin flying community. “It really got morale up,” he said. “But it also gave us a chance to come together as a squadron. It got everybody interested in doing everything perfectly.”

Colonel Mattison summed up the exercise. “We were shooting for excellent instructor training with an operational feel,” he said. “When I saw my first-assignment instructor pilots standing around with big smiles afterward, telling stories and waving their hands, I knew we accomplished the mission.”



Photo by Senior Airman Brad Pettit

A Blackhawk helicopter returns to the mock terrorist site to pick up the “terrorists” for the return trip to Laughlin. The Blackhawk was used for transportation to the mock terrorist sites and as a terrorist target itself.



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suspect Fraud, Waste  
and Abuse, call the  
FWA hotline at  
298-4170.**

**Interested in the Air Force?** *Call Del Rio’s Air Force recruiter at 774-0911.*

# VFW provides airmen free phone cards

**By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez**

*Air Force Print News*

Servicemembers who served overseas in the past are once again giving assistance to those currently serving overseas.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation, through the Air Force Aid Society, is providing phone cards and other items to overseas Air Force members and to their families at home.

This is the fourth consecutive year the VFW Foundation has conducted the program, called “Operation Uplink.” The cards will also be given to members of the other military branches and their families.

The administrator of corporate and foundation development for the VFW Foundation said the program provides a growing and viable service to those who need it the most.

“Operation Uplink has provided more than a million cards over three years to the military,” Mike Meyer said. “This holiday season, Operation Uplink will join with Wal-Mart’s Good Works Program, Hallmark and Federal Express to deliver one of these cards to every active-duty military person stationed overseas.”

The phone cards should be available in family support centers and from personnel support for contingency operations, or PERSCO, teams in time for the holiday season, he said. The cards will be made available overseas through an agreement with Federal Express.

Besides phone cards, the VFW Foundation provides other items distributed to the military members and their families, such as cookies, playing cards, puzzles, books on tape, writing kits, bulletin boards, birthday candles and toys.

The ability and willingness of the VFW to support today’s military people was not lost on retired Lt. Gen. Mike McGinty, chief executive officer of AFAS, which serves as a gateway to the Air Force for organizations wanting to provide assistance.

“They have access to a lot of – I call them ‘goodies’ – items that companies have taken off the market or have an excess of,” McGinty said. “VFW has offered to ship those goodies to us so we can share them with the troops and their families.”

The primary reason the VFW provides this type of support to the armed forces, Meyer said, is because they understand the needs of military members serving overseas.

“We are also cognizant of the needs of their families when those veterans are gone and they are serving,” Meyer said.

It all comes down to assuring the military member that his or her family is taken care of back home, so that he or she can concentrate on the mission, he said. “We feel that if a veteran’s family is 100 percent taken care of, they can support their family member who is overseas,” Meyer said. “As a result, the servicemember will know his family is taken care of, and he will feel better about serving his country.”

# Enlisted Appreciation Day:



Photo by Dave Niebergall

Staff Sgt. Pedro Diaz-Flores, 47th Flying Training Wing precision measurement equipment laboratory journeyman, volleys the ball back to the junior enlisted during the Enlisted Appreciation Day volleyball game Monday. The NCOs won three of four games.

## Compiled from staff reports

The 47th Flying Training Wing annual Enlisted Appreciation Day, held Monday, was called “a success” and “an important event” by Col. Dan Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander.

According to Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Enyeart, 47th FTW command chief master sergeant, the event was designed to foster esprit de corps among the enlisted corps.

“Enlisted Appreciation Day helps create an understanding of the importance of the enlisted corps as a whole,” he said. “The willingness of the Company Grade Officers Council to take on this function and the senior leadership’s efforts to make it happen speak clearly about how much they value enlisted people.”

Chief Enyeart not only commended the officers who organized the event, but also those who participated.

“It is important to note that nearly the entire officer corps supported this event in one way or another,” he said. “I am very impressed with the entire effort and thankful that we have the leadership we do.”

Several members of the enlisted corps said they enjoyed the sporting events and free picnic held during the daylong event.

“It was cool to have Col. [Victor] Hnatiuk, [47th Mission



Photo by Dave Niebergall

A runner collides with Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Enyeart, 47th Flying Training Wing command chief master sergeant, during the Enlisted Appreciation Day softball game between Laughlin NCOs and airmen.



## Company Grade Officers Council hosts day to foster esprit de corps among enlisted members

Support Group commander], someone we look up to and respect, get behind the grill and show that he really does appreciate us,” said Airman Israel Revuelta, 47th MSG fitness specialist.

Enlisted Appreciation Day was filled with sporting events, where NCOs and airmen battled for bragging rights in softball, basketball and volleyball.

“Enlisted appreciation day gives a chance for the NCOs and airmen to get together and meet,” said Airman 1st Class Chae Pak, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron engineer technician. “All the NCOs I’ve met are friendly and outgoing, but they’re still professional. They have a lot to teach us; their moves out on the court and field prove they’ve been around longer than us airmen.”

According to Airman 1st Class Quentin Murphy, 47th Communications Squadron computer operator, “The NCO versus airmen competition was challenging.

“Since all the airmen play basketball and other sports together all the time, I found it interesting to actually play sports with officers and NCOs,” he said. “Enlisted Appreciation Day allowed us all to see another side of our supervisors and enjoy their company outside the work environment.”



Photo by Dave Niebergall

Senior Airman Keith Pruitt, 47th Communications Squadron, attempts to tag out Tech. Sgt. Guy Wells, 47th CS, during the Enlisted Appreciation Day softball game. The NCOs won two of three games.



Photo by Dave Niebergall

(From left) Lt. Col. Marc Luiken, 47th Operations Group deputy commander; Col. Ken Smith, 47th Flying Training Wing vice commander; and Maj. Arthur Price, 47th Communications Squadron commander; cook on the “barbie” at the Enlisted Appreciation Day picnic.



Photo by Dave Niebergall

The NCOs and junior enlisted battle it out on the sand volleyball court during the Enlisted Appreciation Day volleyball game. The NCOs defeated the junior enlisted in three of four games.





Photo by Airman Yvonne Conde

### History revisited

Retired Col. Ben A. Mason, former 82nd Fighter Group commander, describes pictures taken of his P-38 lightning aircraft, "Billy Boy," to Rob Poteat, 47th Flying Training Wing historian, the photo shows Mason and fellow comrades who fought alongside him in World War II. Mason met with Poteat and the personnel of the 96th Flying Training Squadron during a visit here Tuesday.



Chapel  
Schedule



Catholic

- Saturday ● 5 p.m., Mass  
Sunday ● 9:30 a.m., Mass  
● 11 a.m., Little Rock Scripture Study in Chapel Fellowship Hall  
Thursday ● 6 p.m., Choir  
Reconciliation ● By appointment  
Religious Education ● 11 a.m. Sunday

Jewish

- Call Max Stool at 775-4519

Muslim

- Call Mostafa Salama at 768-9200

Nondenominational

- Friday ● 7 p.m., Unity in Community Services  
Every day ● 12 to 1 p.m., prayer hour

Protestant

- Saturday ● 6 p.m., Singles Bible study  
Sunday ● 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday school  
● 11 a.m., General worship  
● 6 p.m., Officer Christian Fellowship, call 298-2238 for details.  
Wednesday ● 10 a.m., Women’s Bible study, children welcome  
● 7 p.m., Choir at chapel

For more information on chapel events and services, call 298-5111.

The *XLer*

**Hometown:** Fairbanks, Alaska  
**Family:** Husband, Larry; puppy, Babie; cats, Moogy and Nala.  
**Time at Laughlin:** 1 year, 3 months  
**Time in service:** 1 year, 6 months  
**Greatest accomplishment:** Learning how to DJ  
**Hobbies:** DJing, anything to do with electronic music, running and surfing the net  
**Bad habit:** Laughing too loud in the movie theater  
**Favorite films:** *Meet the Parents* and *The Joy Luck Club*  
**Favorite musicians:** Paul Van Dyk and Paul Oakenfold  
**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?** My great-grandmother. I knew her only vaguely as a little girl, yet she taught me so much.



Photo by Airman Yvonne Conde

Airman 1st Class Netasha Freeman  
47th Mission Support Squadron  
student assignments apprentice

Interested in  
the Air Force?  
Call Del Rio’s Air  
Force recruiter at  
774-0911.

# Air Force athletes target Ironman World Triathlon

By **Wayne Amann**  
*37th Traing Wing Public Affairs*

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Like the Super Bowl, World Series, Indianapolis 500 or Kentucky Derby, the Ironman World Triathlon Championship is the signature event in the sport.

Lackland triathletes Dave Walick and Sara Whittingham are training to make their mark in the championship Oct. 19 in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

They will be two of six Air Force team members in the field of 1,500 from the age of 18 to 80 who qualified for the 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and 26.2-mile run. Nearly 50,000 triathletes from every state and more than 50 countries tryout for the world’s most famous endurance event every year.

“I’m real excited I’ll be wearing an Air Force uniform and representing Lackland, especially with the new patriotism that’s out there,” beamed Whittingham, an internal medicine resident at Wilford Hall Medical Center. “When I raced in the New Zealand Ironman in March, I wore an American flag and everybody was going ‘Go USA!’”

Navy Cmdr. John Collins started the Ironman Triathlon World Championship in 1978. He proposed combining three races, run consecutively, to settle an argument over who’s more fit – swimmers, runners or other athletes.

“That’s why there’s always a military division,” said Walick, a psychiatry resident at WHMC who competed in Hawaii last year. “There’s an allegiance to the military.”

Competitors must complete the 140.6-mile course within 17 hours. Training for the race typically takes 18 to 24 hours per week, involving seven miles of swimming, 225 miles of biking and 48 miles of running for six to eight months to build the needed stamina.

First-year doctors Walick, 31, and Whittingham, 28, are atypical in their training approach due to the demands of their professions, like 80-hour plus work weeks.

“Sleep and rest, an important part of training, gets lost in residency,” Walick admitted. “Squeezing in training makes it worthwhile when we finish.”

“On Saturday or my day off I’ll try to ride 90 to 100 miles. The next day I may go on a 15-mile run,” Whittingham explained. “There

are key workouts you need to get in each week, everything else is a bonus.”

Walick and Whittingham are Air Force Academy and Tulane University Medical School graduates who sport impressive athletic resumes.

Walick finished 70th out of 945 in the Ironman New Zealand in March. As the top Air Force finisher at the 2001 Ironman Hawaii, he placed 620th among 1,427 finishers. He was 53rd out of 1,666 in the 2001 Ironman California field. He also completed the 1996 and 1997 Ironman Canada events.

A 20-time marathon finisher, the Dayton, Ohio, native was a 1992 National Collegiate Athletic Association All-America soccer player at the Air Force Academy.

Meanwhile, Whittingham finished 565th out of 945 in her first full-length Ironman in New Zealand. She conquered the 2001 Chicago Marathon in just three hours, four minutes and 22 seconds, and was a member of the 1998 All-Air Force triathlon team at the Armed Forces Championships.

The Steamboat Springs, Colo., product was her state’s 1,600 meter and 3,200 meter cross-country champion eight times. She’s climbed Mount Ranier and Mount Whitney.

When the Lackland duo hits the “Big Island” next month, they can expect the usual weather conditions: temperatures as high as 95 degrees with humidity hovering around 90 percent and crosswinds on parts of the bike course gusting upwards of 60-70 mph.

“That’s what separates Hawaii from other places,” Walick said. “There will be adversity on race day, let alone the distance which is hard enough. The real test is just finishing, not winning.”

Whittingham, a six-year triathlete, agreed.

“Any time you get up in the morning and realize you’ll be exercising for at least the next 12 hours or so, it’s intimidating,” she said.

The field has an incentive of \$325,000 in prize money. NBC is scheduled to tape the competition for airing Nov. 23 to a global audience of more than 50 million people.

## Football standings

<u>AFC</u>	<u>W/L</u>
CES	4-2
LSI	3-2
<u>NFC</u>	
Med GP	3-0
86Rios Lobos	3-1
SFS	0-3
<u>XFL</u>	
OSS	4-0
CCS	2-1
LCSAM	2-2